

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Amended) A dispersion comprising particles of metal oxide dispersed in:
a) a siloxane fluid; and
b) a dispersing agent comprising a mixture of polysiloxane molecules;
wherein (i) ~~the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises;~~
(i) an average of from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups per molecule; and, and
(ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane molecules is in the range from 40 to 150:1.
2. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules has a viscosity in the range from 0.2 to 10 Pa. s.
3. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules has a molecular weight number average in the range from 4,000 to 15,000.
4. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the dispersion comprises greater than 30% by weight of particles of metal oxide.
5. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises 0.8 to 2.5 carboxyl groups per molecule.
6. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises in the range from 30 to 200 non-carboxyl group containing monomer units.

7. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the carboxyl group is attached laterally to the polysiloxane chain.
8. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles are hydrophobic.
9. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the siloxane fluid dispersing medium is a cyclic oligomeric dialkylsiloxane, a linear dimethyl-siloxane oligomer and/or polymer, and/or phenyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane.
10. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method of preparing a dispersion of metal oxide which comprises milling with a particulate grinding medium particles of metal oxide in a siloxane fluid in the presence of a dispersing agent agent comprising a mixture of polysiloxane molecules wherein (i) the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises an average of from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups per molecule, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane molecules is in the range from 40 to 150:1.
11. (Previously Presented) A sunscreen composition comprising the dispersion of claim 1.
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of less than 200 nm.
14. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 13, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of 5 to 150 nm.

15. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 14, wherein particles of metal oxide have an extinction coefficient for light in the visible wavelengths of not greater than 10 litres per gram per cm.

16. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 15, wherein metal oxide is titanium dioxide.

17. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 15, wherein metal oxide is zinc oxide.

18. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein said dispersion consists of metal oxide, siloxane fluid, and dispersing agent.

19. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the dispersing agent is present in the range of 1 to 60% by weight based on the weight of particles of metal oxide.

20. (Previously Presented) The sunscreen composition of claim 11, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of less than 200 nm.

21. (Previously Presented) The sunscreen composition of claim 11, wherein the dispersing agent is present in the range of 1 to 60% by weight.